

even then we shall proceed *a talons*, balancing our measures according to the impression we perceive them to make." He did not, however, regard it as a violation of this moderate course to remove arbitrarily such persons as had been appointed to office by his predecessor since the election of the preceding November. These appointments he regarded as made in open defiance of the popular will. Again and again he denounced the conduct of Adams in this respect. To Knox, his former colleague in Washington's Cabinet, he wrote: "In the class of removals I do not rank the new appointments which Mr. A. crowded in with whip and spur from the 12th of December, when the event of the election was known, and consequently that he was making appointments not for himself but his successor, until nine o'clock of the night at twelve o'clock of which he was to go out of office. This outrage on decency should not have its effect except in the life appointments which are irremovable; but as to the others I consider the nominations as nullities, and will not view the persons appointed as even candidates for their office, much less as possessing it by any title meriting respect. I mention these things that the grounds and the extent of the removals may be understood and may not disturb the tendency to union."

In reference to appointments to office he wrote to his old scientific friend Dr. Rush of Philadelphia: "I have no doubt the Federalists will concur in the fairness of the position that after they have been in the exclusive possession of all offices from the very first origin of party among us to the 3d of March at nine o'clock in the night, no Republican ever admitted and this doctrine newly avowed, it is now perfectly just that the Republicans should come in for the vacancies which may fall in until something like an equilibrium in office be restored."

The most notable instance of the application of his views was that of the collectorship of New Haven. Adams had made an appointment to the post the day after Jefferson's election. Jefferson calmly ignored this appointment and dated a new commission from the death of the former incumbent. His appointee